

June 3, 1968

Mr. William Emerson, Editor
The Saturday Evening Post
641 Lexington Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Emerson,

Your reluctance to continue our correspondence over the David Wise piece is even more comprehensible to me now than it was when you ended it. I hope, however, that you will understand my resumption is not merely to embarrass you and the Post, warranted as I would find such a personal indulgence.

Like Dick Chalen, who labored long and hard and then had to be salvaged, Wise is an excellent reporter who just didn't know what he was writing about and didn't understand what he had when he saw it. He and you missed the important story in those executive-session transcripts. Unfortunately, he did not even understand the story he tried to write, for that one he did with the grossest inaccuracy, now additionally tragic because it is a slander on the newest assassination victim. Now it happens that I had a standing request for everything on the autopsy and I was denied this date. This is a violation of the Archives' own regulations. It also happens that the sense in which Wise used Dr. Bahmer was pure flaccery, inappropriate for his position. Instead of answering my letter, Dr. Bahmer retired. This is not by any means the first case in which I (and I think it can be assumed I know the subject) have been denied data I asked for only to have it given exclusively to a name reporter whose ignorance of the subject (or his bias) could be assumed. The contract for the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy is another. In all such cases, what emerges is government propaganda. As I have tried to give you to understand, you and the Post have become part of this. But it is, if from no other motivation, a logical consequence of assigning big names to do stories they will not and can not afford to take the time to do properly.

I now have important foreign interest in the real story of the executive-session transcripts. It will be, I think, the most significant and sensational Warren-Commission story yet. Already I have cause to believe something will follow publication. I am writing to see if the Post could be interested in a story that will not be an apology for the government, couched in contrary language, in a genuine, documented exposé.

Also, for the record, I ask the date on which the Archives declassified these transcripts for you.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Leisberg